

NH NRCS 2012 WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM EASEMENT & RESTORATION RANKING SHEET

The NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) was established to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been degraded as a result of agricultural/silvicultural activities.

| | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Landowner Name: | | | |
| Landowner Address: | | | |
| | <i>Street</i> | <i>City/Town State, Zip</i> | |
| Landowner Number: | | | |
| | <i>Home</i> | <i>Cell</i> | |
| Landowner Email: | | | |
| Parcel Town & County: | | | |
| Application ranked for (choose one): Easement with restoration__ Restoration only__ | | | |

| Category | Environmental Benefit Considerations | Maximum Points | Parcel Points |
|--|---|----------------|---------------|
| Landscape Benefit Factors | 1 Proposed easement has direct: -riparian connection to protected lands=400 pts -riparian connection to lands under agreement=300 pts* -upland connection to protected lands=300 pts -upland connection to lands under agreement=200 pts* <i>*Permanent land protection agreement must be in writing prior to receiving points.</i> | 400 | |
| | 2 Proposed easement has probable occurrences of endangered, threatened, species of concern, or monitored species as determined by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB). <i>E=400 points, T=300 pts, SC=100 pts, M=50 pts</i> | 400 | |
| | 3 Proposed easement area contains rare or exemplary natural communities that appear in NHB records or have been identified by a qualified professional (documentation required). <i>Yes=100 points No=0 Points</i> | 150 | |
| | 4 WAP Tiers Highest Ranked Habitat in NH = 250 Pts or Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region = 150 Pts or Supporting Landscape = 75 Pts | 250 | |
| Hydrology Restoration Potential | 5 Preliminary Restoration Plan (see attached Field Assessment Worksheet) <i>*Maximum capped at 1200 points</i> | 1200 | 0 |
| | 6 Percent of the easement, after proposed restoration, that will provide: (1) hydrologic conditions suitable for the needs of the native wetland dependent wildlife species and (2) appropriate wetland functions and values that existed prior to degradation - 25 points for each 10%. | 250 | |
| | <i>* If parcel cannot demonstrate hydrology restoration potential (score of zero on Category 5 & 6), parcel is ineligible for WRP.</i> | | - |
| Maximum Points for Environmental Benefit Considerations | | 2650 | 0 |

| Category | Economic Considerations | | Maximum Points | Parcel Points | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----|--|
| Cost Effectiveness Factors | 7 | Applicant and/or partnership contributions exist that will reduce NRCS easement acquisition and/or restoration costs*. 5 points for every \$1,000 contribution with a maximum of 250 points. Contributions must be documented in writing prior to ranking. *Restoration costs may include implementation expenses and/or in-kind final WRPO development by qualified professionals after APCE is signed. | 250 | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | <table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Cost Benefit Analysis</td> <td>Environmental Benefit Points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>----- x 100</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">GARC + Restoration (cost per acre)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">(Maximum capped at 50 points)</td> </tr> </table> | Cost Benefit Analysis | Environmental Benefit Points | ----- x 100 | GARC + Restoration (cost per acre) | | (Maximum capped at 50 points) | | 50 | |
| | Cost Benefit Analysis | Environmental Benefit Points | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- x 100 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GARC + Restoration (cost per acre) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (Maximum capped at 50 points) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum Points for Cost Effectiveness Factors | | | 300 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Management Effectiveness Factors | 9 | Operation and maintenance of restoration practices, once installed, will be: <i>Required, but less often than every 5 years - 50 points</i> <i>Required more often than every 5 years - 0 points</i> | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | Ownership will be transferred to a qualified third party (such as a state wildlife agency, land trust, etc) after the easement has closed. Agreement must be documented in writing prior to ranking. <i>Yes = 250 Points No = 0 Points</i> | 250 | | | | | | | | |
| | Maximum Points for Management Factors | | | 300 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Maximum Points for Economic Considerations | | | 600 | 0 | | | | | | | |

| Category | Special Considerations | | Maximum Points | Parcel Points |
|---|------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| Conservation Priority Areas | 11 | NH Conservation Priority Areas as listed in a local, state, or regional plan including but not limited to: -NH Aquifer -Important Bird Area -NHDES Impaired Water Buffers -Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture -New England Cottontail Focus Area -Quabbin to Cardigan Initiative -NH Coastal & Estuarine Land Protection Plan -Upper Ammonoosuc and Israel River Watersheds -NRCS Rivers Initiative (Connecticut, Great Bay, Merrimack, Saco) <i>(50 points for each occurrence - maximum 250 points)</i> | 250 | |
| Farmland Productivity | 12 | Acres offered do not include prime or statewide important farmland. If so, points will be <i>deducted</i> as follows: <i><5 acres = 0 points 5-10 acres = 100 points</i> <i>11-20 acres = 150 points 20+ acres = 200 points</i> | 200 | |
| Total for Special Considerations | | | 250 | 0 |

| TOTAL RANKING SCORE | Maximum Points | Parcel Points |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Total Score for Environmental Benefit Considerations: | 2650 | 0 |
| Total Score for Economic Considerations: | 600 | 0 |
| Total for Special Considerations: | 250 | 0 |
| FINAL RANKING SCORE: | 3500 | 0 |

| SIGNATURE BLOCK | |
|--|--------------------|
| Landowner Signature: _____ PRINT NAME: _____ | Date: _____ |
| NRCS Representative: _____ PRINT NAME: _____ | Date: _____ |
| <p><i>**CHANGES TO PROPOSED EASEMENT BOUNDARY, SITE HYDROLOGY, VEGETATIVE COVER, OR RESTORATION PRACTICES AFTER RANKING MAY VOID THIS SCORE. LANDOWNERS WHO MAKE THESE CHANGES WILL BE DEFERRED.</i></p> | |

2012 WRP Preliminary Restoration Plan - Field Assessment Worksheet

LANDOWNER NAME:

| Resource Concern Categories | Units | Estimated Field Units | Points/Field Unit | Ranking Points | Restoration Practices Selected | Plan Reference | Estimated Cost | Benefited Acres (Q#6) | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| I: SURFACE HYDROLOGY | | | | | | | | | |
| improperly sized, placed, or degraded perennial stream crossings | Each | | 50 | 0 | | | | | |
| Length of incised or degraded perennial streams | Feet | | 0.5 | 0 | | | | | |
| improperly sized, placed, or degraded intermittent stream crossings | Each | | 25 | 0 | | | | | |
| Length of incised or degraded intermittent streams | Feet | | 0.25 | 0 | | | | | |
| II: WETLAND FILL | | | | | | | | | |
| Square feet of filled wetlands | Feet ² | | 0.05 | 0 | | | | | |
| III: RIPARIAN BUFFER | | | | | | | | | |
| Square feet of eroding stream bank | Feet ² | | 0.02 | 0 | | | | | |
| Square feet of riparian area to be restored to native plant community | Feet ² | | 0.01 | 0 | | | | | |
| IV: FOREST TRAILS & ACCESS ROADS | | | | | | | | | |
| Length of roads/trails within wetlands that degrade hydrologic function | Feet | | 0.2 | 0 | | | | | |
| Length of roads/trails that contribute to unnatural drainage patterns (seeps, sinks, etc) | Feet | | 0.1 | 0 | | | | | |
| V: AGRICULTURAL LANDS | | | | | | | | | |
| Length of surface or subsurface drainage | Feet | | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| Length of field edge with inadequate wetland buffer | Feet | | 1 | 0 | | | | | |
| Acres of hydric soils previously shaped +/- smoothed for agriculture | Acre | | 50 | 0 | | | | | |
| VI: INVASIVE SPECIES | | | | | | | | | |
| Treatment acres colonized by wetland invasive species | Acre | | 25 | 0 | | | | | |
| Treatment acres colonized by upland invasive species | Acre | | 10 | 0 | | | | | |
| VII: FORESTED WETLANDS & VERNAL POOLS | | | | | | | | | |
| Acres degraded by agricultural activities past or present (decreased hydroperiod, increased runoff, lack of coarse woody debris, altered vegetative community, etc) | Acre | | 25 | 0 | | | | | |
| VIII: ADDITIONAL RESOURCE CONCERNS | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 0 | | | | | |
| | | | | TOTAL RANKING SCORE: | 0 | TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: | | \$0.00 | 0.0 |

(*Maximum ranking score capped at 1200 points)

SIGNATURE BLOCK

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Landowner Signature: _____ | NAME: _____ | PRINT _____ | Date: _____ |
| NRCS Representative: _____ | NAME: _____ | PRINT _____ | Date: _____ |

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